

# Labor & Environment

## **NO AGREEMENT ON WTO ACCESSION HAS EVER CONTAINED STRONGER MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN GUARANTEES OF FAIR TRADE AND TO ADDRESS PRACTICES THAT DISTORT TRADE AND INVESTMENT.**

- The Agreement gives the U.S. strong protections against dumping.
- The Agreement's China-specific safeguard improves our ability to respond to import surges.
- China has agreed to prohibitions on unfair trade and investment practices that can cost Americans jobs and technology.

## **PASSAGE OF PNTR AND CHINA'S WTO ACCESSION WILL FURTHER OPEN CHINA TO AMERICAN VALUES AND PRACTICES.**

U.S. companies are more committed than their Asian competitors to progressive labor management practices and protecting the safety of their workers.

## **AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS CHINA TO RESPECT INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LABOR RIGHTS.**

- The U.S. continues to make clear our concerns about labor rights violations in China.
- President Clinton and President Jiang announced a dialogue on labor issues in June 1998 that addresses core labor standards, labor law, and development of a social safety net.
- In 1998, China joined the United States and other members of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in adopting a new Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Principles at Work. The U.S. has supported ILO findings on China's law and practice in the area of freedom of association.

## **PASSAGE OF PNTR WILL INCREASE OUR ENGAGEMENT WITH CHINA AND HELP FACILITATE OUR COOPERATION TO PROTECT THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT.**

- Because of its size and growing economy, China is an important player in global environmental issues.
- The more China is integrated into the international system and the more robust our bilateral engagement, the better our chances of influencing Chinese behavior in ways that help protect the health and safety of Americans, Chinese, and people all over the planet.

## **HELPING CHINA ADDRESS ITS DAUNTING ARRAY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IS IN OUR INTEREST.**

- China is essential to solving global environmental threats like climate change and ozone depletion.
- In 1997, Vice President Gore and China's Premier launched the U.S.-China Forum on Environment and Development to expand our bilateral cooperation and dialogue.
- Under the Forum's aegis, we have undertaken a number of cooperative projects and initiatives aimed at the local problems that contribute to regional and global environmental threats.
- Our bilateral cooperation has opened doors for U.S. exports. Several aspects of the Agreement have the potential to further promote the export of environmentally friendly goods and services to China and

improve the environmental performance of economic activity in China. Unless Congress passes PNTR, the U.S. environmental technology sector will miss out on the full benefits of the WTO accession agreement we negotiated.

## WE MUST ALSO ENCOURAGE CHINA TO CONTINUE TO ENGAGE IN MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION.

- China has acceded to a number of important international environmental treaties.
- These agreements, which have led to the strengthening of China's environmental protection institutions and increased contact with the international community, provide our best leverage for holding the Chinese to their commitments and inducing them to improve further.
- Our strong environmental engagement with China also provides us with opportunities to influence China's position on multilateral negotiations on global environmental issues.

## CHINA'S WTO ACCESSION WILL NOT AFFECT THE RIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES OR OTHER MEMBERS TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT AS THEY SEE FIT.

- The WTO recognizes the right of countries to establish levels of protection of health and the environment that they deem appropriate, even if they exceed international standards.
- Nothing in China's accession agreement changes this in any way.



Photo by Jessie Cohen, National Zoo Photographer

### LEONARD WOODCOCK, FORMER PRESIDENT, UNITED AUTO WORKERS:

*"I have spent much of my life in the labor movement and remain deeply loyal to its goals. But in this instance, I think our labor leaders have got it wrong... American labor has a tremendous interest in China's trading on fair terms with the United States... The agreement we signed with China this past November marks the largest single step ever taken toward achieving that goal."*

Washington Post, March 8, 2000

### DAI QING, CHINESE ENVIRONMENTALIST AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST:

*"Permanent Normal Trade Relations would send the Chinese people a powerful and positive message: The most powerful industrialized nation today will work with the Chinese people to build a new world order. This would put enormous pressure on both the government and the general public to meet the international standard not only on trade, but also on other issues, including human rights and environmental protection."*

LA Times, April 20, 2000